



MINUTES
Youth Board
City of Huntington Beach

Thursday, February 23, 2023
3:30PM – Special Meeting
5th Floor Conference Room, City Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Osborne calls the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bartel, Blankenbaker, Parrott, Pham, Osborne, Rizvi, Wong

Absent: Nguyen, Vo

Staff Present: Molly Uemura, Travis Hopkins

Council Liaison Present: Gracey Van Der Mark, Pat Burns

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jill Hardy provides a public comment expressing her commitment to assisting the Youth Board members with the upcoming Youth in Government Day event. Ms. Hardy can assist by acting as liaison for the school district and providing helpful information from events held pre-pandemic.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes Osborne, second Parrott

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

1. Ordinance No. 4283

Staff Liaison Uemura opens the conversation on the item by providing a brief overview of the proposed ordinance. Uemura advises that Chair Osborne, on behalf of the Youth Board, requested to place this item on the agenda. The Huntington Beach Youth Board serves as an advisory board to City Council and relays information related to the issues and needs of the Huntington Beach student body. Members of the Youth Board feel it is important to address the proposed Ordinance No. 4283 with their council liaisons.

Chair Osborne begins the discussion for Youth Board Members. Chair Osborne begins by stating that, although the students understand Ordinance No. 4283 does not directly address the flying of the Pride Flag on City property, they feel this is a targeted action against the previous council directive to fly the Pride Flag during the month of June.

The Youth Board Members express that the flying of the Pride Flag each June has had a significant positive effect on the student population. Members express that their peers have advised that the flag helps them feel safe and welcomed in the community. The Youth Board is passionate about mental health issues in the youth in the community and believe passing Ordinance No. 4283 will have a negative impact on teen mental health, especially for students who identify as LGBTQ+.

Council Liaison Pat Burns explains why he brought this Ordinance as a councilmember item for consideration. Councilmember Burns expresses his belief that only government flags should be flown on City property. He welcomes the opportunity for Pride Flags to be flown throughout the community on private residences and businesses, but believes in the spirit of fairness, the City should only fly government flags.

Council Liaison Van Der Mark echoes Councilmember Burns' sentiments. Mayor Pro Tem Van Der Mark advises that the City Council regularly receives requests to fly special interest flags and cannot

accommodate every request. Mayor Pro Tem Van Der Mark believes the City should remain neutral, and refrain from flying any flags other than the government flags specified in the proposed ordinance.

The Youth Board Members and Council Liaisons continue discussing the proposed ordinance from both sides. Chair Osborne expresses that the Youth Board take an official stance on the issue and inquires on the best path forward. Staff Liaison Uemura advises that the Youth Board may vote to submit a supplemental communication to City Council regarding the item on behalf of the Board. Chair Osborne agrees and calls for a vote.

The Youth Board votes to approve an Ad-Hoc committee to draft a statement on behalf of the Youth Board and submit to City Council as a supplemental communication for the March 7 City Council meeting. Motion passes 7-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. 2023 Youth in Government Day Planning

Date has been confirmed for Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Staff Liaison Uemura will work with City departments to begin confirming on Department Head and staff schedules.

Topics for the RCA are discussed. Ms. Hardy advises that the theme of the event does not have to match with the RCA topic. Students can focus on a guest speaker that emphasizes their theme or one of their Ad-Hoc committee subjects, but the RCA should be a current topic that is easily debatable from both sides and engaging for students. Ms. Hardy suggests the topic of the closure of Main Street. Youth Board members agree that this would be an engaging topic.

Ms. Hardy suggests that Uemura reach out to a representative from BeWell OC for the guest speaker for the lunch portion of the event. This will relate well to the Youth Board's commitment to bringing awareness for teen mental health.

Board Member Bartel will work on the flyer and will bring a copy of the proposed event flyer to the March meeting for Board approval.

Ms. Hardy will work with the student representatives from each school to begin outreach at the schools to advertise the event. Ms. Hardy will also assist in providing the students with direction for facilitating the event. The timeline for application deadlines, student assignments, and speaker and lunch confirmations are discussed.

The Board will begin finalizing more details at the March meeting.

2. Day of Dialogue Potential Event Discussion

Staff Liaison Uemura advises that the Kiwanis Club of Huntington Beach has approached her with an opportunity to partner with the Youth Board to host a teen mental health symposium in the coming months. The Kiwanis Club had a recent presentation from NAMI OC at a Board meeting particularly regarding teen mental health in the community. The President of Kiwanis reached out to Uemura to see if the Youth Board would be interested in partnering on a community event.

Uemura inquires if the Youth Board would be interested in this opportunity, and if so, she will connect Board Member Parrott with Dr. Vu, Kiwanis president. The Board believes this is a good opportunity to

collaborate and combine resources for an event. The timing will also work to delay the event beyond Youth in Government Day to allow for advertising at this event.

The Board approves the mental health Ad-Hoc committee to move forward with pursuing an event in partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Huntington Beach.

3. 2022-2023 Youth Board Ad-Hoc Updates and Discussions

Ad-Hoc Committees will provide further updates at a later meeting.

ITEMS TO BE AGENDIZED

- ADHOC Updates
- YIGD
- Day of Dialogue

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Osborne adjourns to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Youth Board on Monday, March 13, 2023.